

INFORMAL SECRET

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 10 April 1948

SUBJECT Alkumulatorenfabrik G.m.b.H.,
Liesing

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1. [REDACTED] Communist labor leaders at Alkumulatorenfabrik, who represent a minority of plant personnel, carried on a vigorous campaign to promote a general strike in protest against the small food ration and to persuade workers to join a Communist "action committee" in Liesing. Their sole success was a two-hour walkout of Alkumulatorenfabrik factory workers. [REDACTED] the sixty white-collar employees of the plant refused to join. The personnel of Alkumulatorenfabrik does not favor a general strike, and the consensus is that Communist agitation toward this end will not succeed.
2. The annual balance sheet for 1947 has now been completed and is kept under lock and key by the firm's Soviet general manager. Only the chief accountant has access to the balance sheet, and he has been strictly enjoined by the Soviet management not to reveal the figures. Source learned, however, that certain figures on the balance sheet were fixed arbitrarily in advance and therefore do not represent a true accounting of the firm's financial status. For instance, the repair of a motor, which actually cost 23,000 schillings, was entered on the balance sheet as representing the purchase of a motor for 100,000 schillings. An item amounting to 800,000 schillings was entered on the balance sheet as "administrative expense" to be paid to USIA.
3. The plant is continually in difficulty from a shortage of funds. A Soviet directive requires that cash receipts be delivered immediately to USIA. [REDACTED] Comment: Probably to the Military Bank rather than to USIA. A similar practice has been reported in the past in other USIA enterprises as one of the steps in the process of rendering these plants completely subservient to the Soviet administration. Therefore, the plant never has any cash on hand and is frequently forced to apply to the Soviet Military Bank for loans. Interest on these loans represents a further drain on plant income. Plant employees believe that a determined effort is being made to create financial dependence on USIA and the Soviet Military Bank, so that in the event of an Austrian State Treaty, the Soviets can demand that the Austrian Government assume the plant's liabilities toward the Soviet Military Bank.

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4. [REDACTED] another example of the procedure which is contributing to plant indebtedness. The present production schedule calls for 900,000 storage battery plates to be completed by the end of March 1948, and most of these plates are for delivery to the USSR. Contrary to former practice, however, USIA made no deposit against this order and the production cost must be covered by further loans from the Soviet Military Bank.

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